

Mayor's Monthly Message: June 2021

Ty Schraufnagel is a local small business owner with American Family Insurance. Recently, he was named the Agency Owner of the Month Honors for March 2021. He serves on the Florence IDA Commission, which promotes and encourages economic growth and job creation by making low-interest loans available to qualified projects through the issuance of tax-exempt bonds. Ty also serves as the Board President of Paladin, a 501(c)3, Arizona nonprofit corporation, established in 2008 to bring sports and recreation services to communities everywhere.

When Covid-19 struck, Ty and his team came up with some creative ways to engage the community. One event that they started that brings us here today is the 2020 Pinal County March Madness. Fast forward to a year later and they continued with 2021 Pinal County March Madness. They opened nominations for favorite local restaurants, landmarks, and experiences in Pinal County. They encouraged participants to think about their favorite places to bring out of town guests when they come to visit. From there, brackets were created and there were weekly eliminations.

Every week when people voted, they were entered into a drawing for the Pinal County March Madness Grand Prize Basket filled with items from all over the county! The drawing was held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, live on Facebook and the winner was Mr. G.P. Prendergast. This match-off gave an opportunity for businesses to get their names out there and gave participants a chance to learn about new businesses and/or vocalize support for their favorites as each bracket was presented. The final two in the brackets came down to the Windmill Winery and Mount Athos. In my opinion, both are wonderful establishments and I'm proud they are both located right here in Florence, AZ. When the votes were counted, Mount Athos was declared the winner of the 2021 Pinal County March Madness.

Mount Athos is originally out of New York City and they specialize in Greek, American and Italian fine cuisine. They offer an assortment of dishes from a hamburger with fries, pastas, even lamb shanks and gyros. They're located in the historic town of Florence, AZ on Highway 79 and Ruggles Rd. Mount Athos comes equipped with a full bar, stocked with premium liquors, beers, and wines. Happy hour is daily from 2pm to 5 pm, where they offer 2 for 1 house wine and draft beer. They have a wonderful atmosphere, friendly service, and great food! Sometimes, they even have entertainment playing on the back patio.

I truly want to express my appreciation and gratitude in creatively bringing people together, while promoting and supporting local businesses.

In addition to this monthly message, you can find all town council meeting agendas and minutes at: <http://www.florenceaz.gov/town-council/> and our regularly scheduled meetings are the first and third Mondays, at 6 pm, at Town Hall in Florence, AZ. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out at Mayor@florenceaz.gov.

Sincerely,

Tara Walter
Mayor of Florence, AZ